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ABSTRACT

Originally prepared for and delivered at a 1978 workshop about the resources of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the four essays in this pamphlet provide a series of guides to the archives, maps, printed materials, and other sources of genealogical data located in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. All four essays were written by staff members of the society. James L. Hansen reviews the resources of the historical society library, while Joanne E. Hohler describes the Wisconsin state archives. The use of maps and other cartographic records in genealogical research is described by Michael J. Fox. Finally, John O. Holzhueter describes two case studies where genealogical research on his part solved the 1855 kidnapping of Caspar Partridge, a Menominee Indian boy, and located a rare photograph of an early black civil rights leader, Ezekiel Gillespie. An introduction contains basic information about the historical society including details of its location, opening hours, parking facilities, and photocopying services; a brief description of the authors of the essays; and an index to the pamphlet. (Author/ESR)

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GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

An Introduction to the Resources of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

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edited by

James P. Danky

MADISON, 1982

IR050157

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INTRODUCTION

The essays in this pamphlet were originally prepared for and delivered at "Genealogy for Librarians," an introductory workshop about the resources of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, on April 28, 1978. The workshop was made possible through funds provided by an LSCA Title I Grant received from the Division for Library Services, Department of Public Instruction. Each of the speakers has prepared a written version of his or her talk, adding or clarifying information where necessary. We hope that this pamphlet will be helpful and informative to the beginner as well as to the experienced researcher. Suggestions and corrections for future editions will be appreciated.

James P. Danky

BASIC INFORMATION

Located on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus at 816 State Street (at the corner of Park and Langdon Streets, eight blocks west of the State Capitol), the State Historical Society of Wisconsin is open to the public without charge. Automobile parking in the campus area is a problem. All-day or five-hour facilities are usually filled by mid-morning. The Memorial Union lot on Langdon Street and the Helen C. White Hall garage on Park Street, across from the Union, have all-day meters while the Lake Street Ramp has five-hour meters. Street parking, when available, is limited by two-hour meters. A researcher may obtain a one-day or one-week visitor's parking permit from the University Parking Office (263-6666). A campus bus runs about every ten minutes between outlying parking lots and the campus, and city buses run between the campus area and all sections of Madison. Within a few minutes' walk from the Society are the Madison Inn and Town/Campus Motel and a variety of meal facilities ranging from snack bars to restaurants featuring foreign cuisine. Within about a mile other hotels and motels may be reached by longer walks or by bus. Detailed suggestions for housing are available upon request of the Reference Archivist. If you are planning a visit from some distance we strongly urge you to write or telephone ahead in order to avoid disappointment.

Hours: The Library is normally open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday. The Archives Division Reading Room, including the Map

Section, is normally open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Exceptions occur most frequently on Saturdays during the summer and during the University's recess periods. Both the Archives and the Library are closed on Sunday. Detailed schedules are posted or will be mailed on request by the Reference Librarian.

Telephone Numbers:

Archives	Reference	(608) 262-3338
	Maps	(608) 262-5867
Library	Circulation	(608) 262-3421
	Reference	(608) 262-9590

Mailing Address:

816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....3

The Library, by James L. Hansen.....9

The Wisconsin State Archives, by Joanne E. Hohler...20

The Map Collection, by Michael J. Fox.....32

Genealogy in Wisconsin History: An 1855 Kidnapping Solved and a Rare Photograph Found, by John O. Holzhueter.....44

Index.....53

About the Contributors.....55

THE LIBRARY

James L. Hansen

The Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin has many resources of interest and use to the genealogist. Family histories, local histories, biographies, published local records, censuses and newspapers, all of which the Library has in abundance, can be of help to the genealogical researcher. These materials are not limited in geographic scope to Wisconsin. The Library attempts, insofar as possible, to acquire all available published material relating to the history and genealogy of any part of the United States and Canada.

Because the Library also functions as the North American history resource library for the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, it makes no attempt to collect non-North American historical or genealogical publications. Although other Madison campus libraries, most notably the Memorial Library, have substantial holdings, particularly in European history, none of them specifically acquires foreign genealogical publications.

The Historical Society Library's collection of more than 15,000 published family histories is one of the largest in the United States. The collection covers a wide area both geographically and chronologically; but it is not for everyone. In order for the Library to acquire a family history, it first has to be compiled, and only a small percentage of U.S. families have had such a history printed. In general

terms, the longer the family has been in this country the more likely it is to have a published history. Traditionally, New England families have had the most such histories printed, but more recently other areas have experienced a sharp increase in such publication. Also, families of English origin, especially if the immigrant ancestor came over in colonial times, are more likely to have a printed history than families of non-English origins.

The researcher must also remember that published histories vary greatly in the accuracy of the information they contain. Some are excellent; others are not worth their weight in family group sheets. All such publications should be considered as secondary sources; the researcher must double check the sources from which the author gathered the information, and be prepared, if necessary, to undertake additional original research. If you are fortunate enough to locate a published history of part of your family, however, it can save you considerable research and, at least, narrow your search.

Family histories can be located in the Library subject card catalog, alphabetically under the name of the family (e.g., Findlay Family). Remember, though, that just because the surname is the same there is no guarantee that it is directly connected to your family. Many surnames, especially the more common ones, have many unrelated branches.

To complement the Library's collection of family histories, its collection of local histories is also very large. State, regional, county, city, village, township, denominational, and individual church histories all can be of use to the genealogist. They are all likely to contain much biographical and genealogical information about the people living within their areas of coverage. Many of the most useful are the county histories published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These were often subscription histories. (That is, before the book was published, an agent would canvass the area covered by the

book soliciting subscriptions to the completed work. If you ordered a copy, your purchase price included the privilege of including a biographical sketch of yourself in the history.) Many such histories contain hundreds of biographical sketches. Because of tendencies toward self-glorification, transcription and printing errors, etc., one must use these sketches with caution, but they frequently contain information that may not be available in print elsewhere. The strengths and weaknesses in chronological and geographical coverage closely parallel those of the family histories, with particular strengths in the northern and eastern states corresponding to weaknesses in the western and southern states. Many, but not all, such biographical sketches appearing in Wisconsin county histories and biographical compendia are indexed by individual name in the Library's subject card catalog. In addition the subject catalog contains listings of many Wisconsinites' obituaries. These obituary listings (called the Wisconsin Necrology), while substantial, are by no means complete. They are a selection, chosen over the years by Society staff, tending to emphasize prominent people, "old settlers," etc. If you do not find an obituary for the individual you are tracing in the subject card catalog, you should certainly search the appropriate local newspapers.

Accompanying the Library's local histories is its extensive collection of published records from across the United States and Canada. These include, but are not limited to, birth, baptismal, marriage, death, burial, cemetery, probate, land, and tax records. The coverage of these records is somewhat scattered, as the existence of a particular record in the Library collections depends on the interest and ambition of the individual or organization which chose to publish it. Also, because the requirements for keeping records varied considerably over time and area (for example, marriage licenses were not required in Pennsylvania until the 1880's), many desirable records

simply do not exist in any form. The strengths of the published records parallel those of family and local histories. However, there has been considerable publishing activity in recent years in many previously under-covered areas.

Many published records appear in genealogical periodicals, of which the Library has an extensive collection. These publications vary considerably. They include journals devoted to a particular surname or the publications of a particular genealogical society (most often state, regional, or local), and even a few with national coverage. Although some do include research articles, the principal purpose of most is to make more widely available the unpublished records within their scope. Such publications will be found under their titles in the Library's author-title catalog, and most local-interest periodicals will be found in the subject catalog under the name of the locality. For example, the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter will be found in the subject catalog under the heading "Wisconsin--Genealogy."

The federal government has taken censuses every ten years since 1790. Because the records of these original enumerations have for the most part survived, they are of particular importance in genealogical research. The records of the censuses from 1790 through 1900 are available to researchers and will be the ones covered in most detail here. The original manuscripts of the censuses of 1910 through 1970 are still closed and in custody of the Bureau of the Census. However, should you need a copy of your own record or that of a member of your immediate family, a copy can be obtained by applying to the Personal Census Service Branch, Bureau of the Census, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762.

The 1790 census, which attempted to record all of the people living in the United States, listed only the head of the family by name, with the rest of the household enumerated by gender in a variety of age categories. Succeeding censuses of 1800, 1810, 1820,

1830, and 1840 continued this pattern, although the breakdown in the age categories became progressively more detailed. In 1850 a revolution in the census occurred; that enumeration was much more detailed and consequently of much more use to genealogists. The 1850 census asked for the name, age, sex, race, and place of birth (state of birth if born in the United States or country of birth if born outside the United States) of each individual, and requested the occupation of each individual fifteen years of age or over. The 1860 and 1870 censuses asked for essentially the same information, and the 1880 census went into even more detail by asking also for the marital status of each individual, the relationship to the head of the household, and the place of birth of the parents of each individual. The 1890 census was almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1921 and only a few, very widely scattered portions survived. The 1900 census was released for research by the National Archives in December, 1977, and includes even more extensive detail. The 1900 census asks, in addition to the items previously mentioned, for the month and year of birth of each individual as well as for a variety of other more detailed bits of information.

The State Historical Society Library holds, on microfilm, the surviving original schedules of the Federal censuses of all the states from 1790 through 1880. It also has on microfilm the few surviving schedules of the 1890 census, as well as the schedules covering the State of Wisconsin from the 1900 census which were only recently released. It is hoped that the Library will be able to acquire the schedules of the 1900 census for other states, but it will be some time before those records are completely acquired.

Over the years there have been published many transcriptions and indexes to various portions of these census records. Usually the transcriptions or indexes cover either an entire state or portions thereof. There have been many indexes and transcriptions published for the censuses from 1790 through

1850, but progressively fewer for the censuses taken after 1850. The Historical Society Library attempts to acquire any such transcriptions or indexes published.

The Historical Society Library holds the original manuscripts of the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses for the state of Wisconsin as well as microfilm copies of these records. The 1820-1870 U. S. censuses for Wisconsin were indexed as a W.P.A. project in the 1930's. The index which lists each individual within the state in a given census year is available on microfilm both at the Historical Society Library and on interlibrary loan through local libraries across the country.

In addition to the U. S. censuses, there have been a variety of other scattered censuses taken by various colonies, states, territories, and other jurisdictions from colonial times to the present. Such records of these as have been published have normally been acquired as part of the Historical Society's collections. There were censuses (giving only full names of heads of household, and numbers of persons in the households) taken in territorial Wisconsin in 1836, 1838, 1842, 1846 and 1847. Similar state censuses were taken in 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, and 1895 with a complete census in 1905. All of these censuses, with the exception of that for 1905, are in the Society's Archives Division. The 1905 Wisconsin state census is available on microfilm in the Library and through interlibrary loan. (A full description of these censuses appears in Joanne Hohler's remarks.)

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has the second largest collection of newspapers in the United States, surpassed only by that of the Library of Congress. It is a national collection, spanning the period from the seventeenth century to the present, that has been developed to serve the needs of researchers not only in Wisconsin, but throughout the nation and the world. By agreement with the University of Wisconsin, the Society since 1901 has limited

its newspaper collecting to materials dealing with the area north of the Rio Grande. The holdings include titles published in each of the fifty states, U. S. possessions, and the thirteen Canadian provinces, plus an assortment of military newspapers published overseas. More than 4,000 titles are included in the collection, with Wisconsin imprints accounting for approximately 1,600 of these.

In addition to newspapers currently received and awaiting conversion to microfilm either by the Society's own laboratory or by the acquisition of commercially produced microfilm, the newspaper collection consists of 15,000 bound volumes, 70,000 reels of positive microfilm, and 12,000 sheets of microprint.

The newspaper collection has a number of areas of particular strength. One is Wisconsin newspapers, numbering over 1,600 titles. It has long been regarded as a model for other states and was most recently described in Donald E. Oehlerts' Guide to Wisconsin Newspapers, 1833-1957 (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1958). Oehlerts' volume is still the best guide to the newspaper holdings on Wisconsin in the Society, and any title listed in the book as being in the Library (those coded "WHi") is already on microfilm and available on interlibrary loan. The Society has since 1943 maintained subscriptions to all Wisconsin newspapers as well as to over fifty other newspapers throughout the United States and Canada. Prior to 1943 the Society was more selective in its acquisition of Wisconsin titles. Many of the titles or issues listed in Oehlerts as being held by other libraries have been borrowed by the Society and microfilmed. In short, the Society's Library should be the first place to look for a newspaper after a researcher has checked with his or her own local library.

In addition to possessing the largest collection of colonial and early American newspapers west of the Appalachians, the Society has one of the three largest collections of labor papers in the nation. Other

areas of the newspaper collection which have attained national importance are those of radical/reform, abolitionist, nineteenth century religious, black, ethnic, Native American, and women's newspapers.

In the late 1840's, soon after the Society's founding and even before it had a library collection of any size, the Society began to acquire newspapers from across Wisconsin. As some of the founders of the Society were in the newspaper business, this is not surprising. By 1856, the Society regularly received fifty-two publications--more than any other comparable historical agency in the U. S. With the hiring of Lyman Copeland Draper as its Corresponding Secretary in 1853, the Society began an aggressive program of newspaper collecting that went far beyond the borders of the state. In his first year as Secretary, Draper purchased a set of Niles' Weekly Register at auction in New York and received files of eighteenth century Cooperstown, New York, and Philadelphia newspapers, thus establishing a policy of collecting early Americana. The collection increased rapidly during the nineteenth century under Draper and his successor, Reuben Gold Thwaites, and was viewed as the sixth largest collection of pre-1820 papers by Clarence Brigham in his History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820 (Worcester, Massachusetts, American Antiquarian Society, 1947). As interest in the American West grew, the Society began to acquire a substantial collection of newspapers from all of the states and territories of that area including Alaska and Hawaii. This portion of the collection reached a peak during World War I when an additional thirty-six Western dailies were added so that future historians could study the impact of the war on the isolationist belt from the Appalachians to the Rockies and beyond.

To help local users, as well as those from around the state and nation, the Society has issued many bibliographic aids to its newspaper collection. Specialized bibliographies published by the Society describing portions of the newspaper collections

include Labor Papers on Microfilm; a Combined List (Madison, 1965), Black Newspapers and Periodicals, Second Edition (compiled by Neil Strache, Maureen Hady, James Danky, Susan Bryl, and Erwin Welsch, 1979), Wisconsin Newspapers, 1833-1850 (compiled by James Hansen, 1979), and Undergrounds: A Union List of Alternative Periodicals (compiled by James Danky, 1974). The library has responded enthusiastically to co-operative bibliographic projects in addition to Brigham's History and Bibliography of American Newspapers..., including Winifred Gregory's American Newspapers, 1821-1936 (New York, Bibliographical Society of America, 1937), Karl Arndt and May Olson's The German Language Press of the Americas (Munchen, Federal Republic of Germany, Verlag Dokumentation, 1976), and Bernard Naas and Carmelita Sakr's American Labor Union Periodicals (Ithaca, Cornell University, 1956). Since 1948, the Society has submitted information on its holdings to the Library of Congress-sponsored Newspapers in Microform both to publicize its collection and to prevent duplicate microfilming. The Society has also continued to participate in co-operative newspaper microfilming and reprinting programs such as the American Antiquarian Society and Readex-sponsored Early American Newspapers and Greenwood Press's Radical Periodicals in the United States.

Today all the Wisconsin newspapers in the Society are on microfilm but the search continues to identify and borrow for filming titles or parts of files not held. Some of the Library's non-Wisconsin newspapers are on microfilm but many are only available in the original. If anyone knows of a missing Wisconsin newspaper he or she should contact the Newspapers and Periodicals Librarian at the Society so these valuable resources can be preserved centrally.

As Clarence S. Brigham noted in the introduction to his history, "If all the printed sources of history for a certain century or decade had to be destroyed save one, that which could be chosen with the greatest value to posterity would be a file of an important

newspaper." Genealogists would probably agree with these sentiments, a conclusion reinforced by the extensive use of the Society's newspaper collection in genealogical research.

Because of the extent and variety of the Library's collections, a personal visit is strongly recommended as the most efficient way to use them. It is important, however, for the researcher to be well prepared before making a personal visit. Definition of your research problem will allow you to make more efficient use of your time at the Society.

Most of the strictly genealogical materials in the Library collections do not circulate, the principal exceptions being microfilmed newspapers, the 1820-1880 U. S. censuses for Wisconsin, their indexes for 1820-1870, and some microfilmed Wisconsin county histories. Family histories and published local records do not circulate under any circumstances. Some county and local histories may circulate depending on condition, rarity, and demand. Much of the general library collection does circulate, the major exceptions being pamphlets, unmicrofilmed newspapers, unbound periodicals, and rare books. The Library has a self-service Xerox machine (10 cents per exposure) and has facilities for photocopying from microfilm.

Any circulating materials in the Library collection are also available for interlibrary loan. To borrow materials on interlibrary loan, the researcher should go to his or her local library and ask to have the material borrowed. The library will then contact the Society and the materials will be sent to the cooperating library for use there.

Because of the Society's limited staff, only the most basic assistance can be provided in response to mail requests. The appropriate indexes will be searched for information about a specific individual or family, if the patron provides sufficient identifying information in the letter of inquiry. Searches for information about all the individuals of a given surname cannot be undertaken. The searching

that can be done for a mail request is performed without charge unless it involves making photocopies. Please do not send payment, even with photocopy orders; the Society's Fiscal Services Section will bill for any photocopies made. The basic rates are 10¢ per page plus $.50 for postage and handling. Specific price quotes will be provided upon request.

If more extensive searching than can be provided is indicated, we will furnish, upon request, a list of certified genealogical researchers who may be able to undertake the necessary research. The inquirer is expected to contact the researcher directly concerning research fees and conditions.

Genealogical research in any institution can be very time consuming and frustrating. It may help to consider that somewhere in the world there exists the particular bit of information you are seeking. All you have to do is find where it is. We will try, as best as we can, to assist in that search.

THE WISCONSIN STATE ARCHIVES

Joanne E. Hohler

In the past, the term "archives" tended to connote a sanctum sanctorum, the lair of professional scholars, ill-lit and crammed with bales of musty documents. The picture did not flatter, and it tended to intimidate all but the boldest researcher. Happily, times have changed. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin is a public institution, and, as custodian of the Wisconsin State Archives, it is and always has been open to any and all serious students of the past. Today, more than one-third of the persons who use the archives are genealogists -- a statistic which archivists must take to heart.

Genealogists tend to be excited over their research, anxious to share their feelings and discoveries, grateful for assistance. But many of them are amateur researchers, not academicians. Archivists, who are used to working with historians and social scientists, too often seem brusque or cryptic to genealogists. There is a need for improved communication and better understanding between the two if the rich genealogical resources of the state archives are to be explored and used to their fullest.

The truth is, it is easier to use a library than an archive. We are taught in our school days how to use libraries, which have a relatively small number of reference tools and a more-or-less standardized "product": the printed page, packaged as a book or periodical, and classifiable by author, title, and subject. An archive, by contrast, contains a wide variety of

of types of documents, both printed and in manuscript; its findings aids are more complicated than a library's card catalog; its holdings are usually incomplete, often fragmentary within a given record group; and relevant bodies of material are easily overlooked, even by experienced researchers. It is the purpose of this brief essay to explain what the Wisconsin State Archives is, how it works, and how it can be used profitably by genealogists.

The Archives Division, located on the fourth floor of the State Historical Society, has four sections: Reference, headed by Josephine L. Harper, reference archivist; Iconography and Recorded Sound, of which George Talbot is curator; Area Research Centers and Extension Services, co-ordinated by John A. Fleckner; and Records Processing, headed by Max J. Evans. The Division Head is F. Gerald Ham, who is also Wisconsin State Archivist. Except for nontextual material (photographs and sound recordings), all research in our collections, including genealogical research, is done in and/or through the Reference Section, either by mail or in the fourth-floor reading room.

The generic term "archives" refers to public records as well as the papers of private individuals, businesses, and organizations. (Unfortunately archival terminology is subject to change and variation without notice, but on the fourth floor we refer to our public records as archives and to private papers as manuscripts.) The Society has been the official depository of the archives of the State of Wisconsin since 1947. We hold more than 26,000 cubic feet of state, county, and local government records dating from 1799 to the present, and a like amount of manuscript items.

While population and mortality schedules for the federal censuses are in the Library (see article by James Hansen), the Archives also holds the manuscript federal census mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. These schedules list only individuals

who died during the year immediately preceding the census. Entries include the month and year of death, the cause of death, the age, sex, color, marital status, place of birth and occupation of the deceased, as well as whether his father and/or mother were of foreign birth.

Territorial censuses were taken in 1836, 1838, 1842, 1846, and finally in 1847. The number of residents was the only important fact desired by territorial officials, so these censuses list very little else. The name of the head of the family and the number of males and females in residence are usually found, and, for some years, persons were grouped by age and color or race. The territorial censuses are not indexed. They are on microfilm and available on interlibrary loan. Beginning in 1855, and for every ten years thereafter through 1905, the state took a census. The Archives Division has the originals of the 1855, 1875, 1885, and 1895 censuses. Microfilm copies of the 1905 census, the last census taken by the State of Wisconsin, recently have been transferred from the Archives Division to the Microforms Reading Room of the Library. Alphabetically arranged index cards to family heads in the City of Milwaukee and a portion of Milwaukee County, taken from the 1905 census, are available in the Archives Reading Room. These have not been microfilmed. Since May, 1977 the Society has been engaged in creating a personal name index to the 1905 census and to date thirty-five counties have been completed. When each county is completely indexed the slips are microfilmed and retained for interfiling into a master state-wide index. The project is an ongoing one that will eventually encompass the entire state.

The State census records for 1855, 1875, 1885, and 1895 are not indexed but are available on microfilm. They are arranged by county and contain much the same limited information as the territorial censuses. In 1855 and 1865 designations for deaf and dumb, blind, insane, and foreign-born were added. (As

noted before, the 1865 census records were destroyed and except for Ozaukee and parts of Racine Counties only a statistical abstract remains.) In 1875, the foreign-born category was dropped. But in 1885 and 1895, a country-of-birth category was added and the deaf and dumb, blind, etc. enumerations were omitted. The last four volumes of both the 1885 and 1895 censuses enumerate those soldiers and sailors of the Civil War residing in the state, giving their names, rank, company, regiment, state, vessel of service, and post office.

The 1905 census is the most detailed of the state censuses. It records the name of every family member, his or her relationship to the head of the household, color or race, sex, age, marital status, birthplace and birthplace of parents, occupation if over fourteen, number of months employed, and whether a landowner. The state censuses may list someone not found on the federal censuses taken five years on either side of it, or someone living in the state only a short time, and the 1905 census is the latest census open for research. As with the earlier federal census population schedules listing birthplaces, the 1905 state census can sometimes aid in tracing a family's migration across the country through the birthplaces of the children.

Military records are a tremendously valuable and reliable source for the genealogist. They contain an amazing amount of information, and are generally easier to use than unindexed census records or passenger lists. The Wisconsin State Archives holds 173 record series pertaining to the Civil War alone in the records of the governor, the secretary of state, the state treasurer, the adjutant general, the quartermaster general, and records of various regiments. There is a list of persons liable for military service; there are county draft books, regimental muster and descriptive rolls, field rosters, an index to Wisconsin volunteers, field papers, hospital reports, rosters of state militia, certificates of service,

pension claims, duty rosters, records of the volunteer regiments, applications for commissions, records of the disposition of personal effects, state census enumerations of Civil War veterans in Wisconsin in 1885, 1895, and 1905; and a list of soldiers buried in Madison who died at Camp Randall. These are not complete records including every soldier, every pension claim, every regiment, every duty roster; and most records are not indexed.

Most useful of the military records are the regimental rosters and descriptive rolls. These are arranged by regiment, then company, officers listed first, then enlisted men, each group in alphabetical order. There are two sets of these rosters: one, the muster rolls (the red volumes), which were compiled at the time of the Civil War, include the place of birth for each man. The second set, the descriptive rolls (blue volumes) were compiled by the adjutant general's office about 1885, twenty years after the war. Some include a more complete service record of the individual volunteer, but do not give his birthplace. Both sets of rosters have name, rank, when and where enlisted, by whom, for how long, when mustered into U. S. service and where, some physical description, occupation, place of residence, date of termination of service, and occasional remarks about illnesses, transfers, or death where applicable. A published index, Wisconsin Volunteers, War of the Rebellion, 1861-1875 (Madison, Democrat Publishing Company, 1914) is available to determine a man's unit if it is not known.

Records for National Guardsmen who served in the Spanish-American War are not in the Archives; nor are the records of those who served in World Wars I and II, or the Korean or Vietnam wars. These records are at the Department of Veteran Affairs, though all records for World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans are confidential. If a veteran wants information from his records for these latter wars, it will be sent to his County Service Officer for him to pick up upon

identifying himself. The Department of Veterans Affairs, Room 263 at 77 North Dickinson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702 (266-1311), also has an index of grave registrations for veterans buried in Wisconsin through 1970. (Lists of the more than thirty Revolutionary War veterans who served in the colonial army and who are buried in Wisconsin are available in the Library.) Military and pension records, beginning with Revolutionary War soldiers through World War I (for officers only), are at the National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, D. C. 20408. Personnel records for soldiers in U. S. military units in World Wars I and II are at the National Personnel Records Center, a division of the General Services Administration, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132. The Archives of the State of Wisconsin has records of men in the military service of the state; it does not have the records of men called to duty in military units by the national government. The Archives also lacks records on the Black Hawk and Mexican American wars. The records held at the Department of Veterans Affairs for World War I veterans sometimes duplicate the records in St. Louis, but are mainly bonus and service cards. For World War II, they consist of copies of separations and some medical records.

The list of county and local government records of use to the genealogist is long, and varies greatly in quantity and quality from county to county. County and local records held by the Society are not all housed at the headquarters in Madison. The Society has a network of thirteen Area Research Centers throughout the state, for the most part connected with the state universities. The county and local records of the county in which the Research Center is located -- and of adjacent counties -- are housed at these Area Research Centers. The records may be recalled to Madison or sent to another Research Center for a limited time at the request of a researcher. Probate case files, poll lists, tax records, school

records, naturalization papers, declarations of intention of naturalization, land records, and so forth may be among a county's records. However, the records that should have been created in a given county were not always created, and if created, they are not always still in existence.

In 1906 the state set up a department of vital records registration, but vital records are still found in registers of deeds offices in the counties as well as at the Bureau of Health Statistics in the Department of Health and Social Services, Room 480 at 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702. Very few birth, marriage, or death records have been transferred to the Society. Those that have been will be found with the records of the individual counties. The Bureau of Health Statistics charges a four-dollar search fee for each record requested, whether the record is located or not. One needs to supply the names, place of birth, marriage, divorce, or death, and the date if the record is to be found. Bureau personnel will do a ten-year search of indexes if the date is not known.

After June, 1906, naturalization papers became federal property; but up to the 1930's naturalization was handled by circuit courts. After that time a federal commissioner was responsible for the naturalization process. Naturalization records up to the 1930's and beyond will be found with the records of the various courts, and many of them have been microfilmed and are in Area Research Centers.

The archival sources mentioned certainly do not exhaust the possibilities. License applications for the various professions, as for example physicians, midwives, physical therapists, pharmacists, architects and professional engineers, barbers and others; Immigration Division records with background information about colonization companies; annual enumeration of farm statistics by assessors; pardon and extradition papers; warrants; records of executive clemency and restoration of citizenship; records of the

Historical Records Survey; a register of physicians practicing between 1845 and 1900; and on and on -- any may contain that elusive piece of the puzzle. But once the census, military, and vital records have been exhausted, searching public records for genealogical clues is not a game for the faint-hearted. It is only the determined and imperturbable researcher who can fight the odds. These are scattered, incomplete, often disappointing files, and any information found in them may be so sparse as to be nil.

For private records, that is, manuscripts, it is more difficult to say what the Archives Division does not have. Much of what we do have is of no use for specific genealogical research. But one can take the view that every person is of potential interest to some genealogical study someday, and his letters and activities may then be also. Church records, the papers of genealogists, the general collections, and the biographies of prominent Wisconsin people done as a WPA Writers' Project during the Depression, are all rich genealogical sources. Noteworthy, too, are the Daughters of the American Revolution -- Wisconsin Genealogical Records Committee Collections. This is a series of fifty-two volumes of copied information on many Wisconsin families, drawn from family Bibles, tombstone inscriptions, church records, family histories, pioneer letters, wills, deeds, and other legal records. We have a shelf list gathered from the tables of contents of each of the fifty-two volumes. Most of the volumes have an index at the end, and much of this material can be approached through the card catalogue for manuscript collections. This is a heavily used collection.

As a Bicentennial project, the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society issued "century certificates" to applicants who could prove their ancesters had settled at least 100 years previously in the Wisconsin counties of Dane, Rock, Green, Jefferson, or Columbia -- and "pioneer certificates" if they had settled by 1850. A total of 7,285 certificates was issued by the

end of 1976. The applications for these certificates, which, of course, are a significant genealogical source, are on file in the Archives Reading Room. An index to the applications (entitled Some Pioneer Families of Wisconsin -- An Index) is available in the Reading Room, or may be purchased at the Society's main floor information desk for five dollars.

A related collection, "Wisconsin Pioneers and Century Farms," consists of material compiled by the Wisconsin Centennial Committee on Century Families. It is arranged by counties and includes genealogical forms, century farm records, articles, correspondence, cemetery records, an index of Wisconsin's first settlers whose descendants were living in the state in 1948, and records of the Centennial Farm Certificate Program conducted by the Wisconsin State Department of Agriculture from 1952 to 1957.

Manuscript catalogers have for many years sent copies of catalog cards describing manuscript collections of family papers, which are those papers containing material on a family's history and genealogy, to the Library for the Society's main catalog in the Library, as well as entering them in the manuscript catalog on the fourth floor. Collections so cataloged may include letters, genealogical charts, reminiscences, journals of voyages or cross-country journeys, diaries, biographical material, baptismal and marriage records, family histories, wills, deeds, certificates of recommendation by pastors and others for emigrating families, and so on. They are often cataloged under each of the several surnames on genealogical charts found with the papers -- but not always.

The personal research collection of Lyman Copeland Draper, the first corresponding secretary of the State Historical Society, must certainly be designated as a prize. (Some Kentuckians and West Virginians still believe that Draper perpetrated a mighty wrong by "purloining" treasures from their states.) The 500 volumes that constitute this collection, first microfilmed in 1949, are again being microfilmed by

the University of Chicago; and a new, eagerly anticipated guide, and indexes to the papers are currently being compiled by Josephine Harper. The Draper volumes are an unusual genealogical source, and have been studied and referred to over the years as such by a larger number of people than any other of the Society's manuscript collections. Microfilm copies of the various Draper series are widely distributed at libraries and archival depositories throughout the United States and Canada, but hardly a single day's mail does not contain a Draper request. With the new indexes and guide, and the new master negative microfilm, the Draper manuscripts will be infinitely easier to use than they have been in the past. Although the Archives Division does have the original Draper volumes, we prefer that researchers use the microfilm copies.

The Archives Reference professional staff consists of two persons: Dr. Harper, reference archivist; and, Miss Katherine Thompson, reference assistant. We are seriously understaffed for handling the volume of reference requests and the number of patrons doing research in our collections. Dr. Harper is backed-up unofficially by myself, and officially by Michael Fox, our map curator, who does all the map reference, and answers all letters relating in any way to our map collections. Miss Thompson and her para-professional assistants answer all routine reference requests relating to certification of Civil War veterans, or information from the regimental rolls and census records. They will check the index for a Civil War veteran's unit, copy the information relating to him from the regimental rolls, and supply a certificate of his service. (This is limited to three men per request.) Of course, they will give individual help to patrons in the Reading Room insofar as it is needed, such as explaining the finding aids and operation of the copier. Our stacks are closed, so all collections are paged for patrons.

Dr. Harper interviews researchers on their first

visit to the archives if they request such assistance, and she answers all mail reference requests that are not routine, that require research or special knowledge of the collections, and for which no form-letter response applies. All staff archivists are available to talk to researchers about collections and research problems relating to the archivist's field of interest or study: labor, mass communications, theater, the Wisconsin collections, etc.

The number of staff hours available severely limits the service we can offer to people who request information by mail. We are not able to search unindexed records, and we do not search or make photocopies for researchers for records which are available on microfilm. This limits what we can -- or will -- do for genealogists who request Wisconsin censuses research by mail. We will arrange for an outside research aide to search and copy unindexed records and papers which have not been microfilmed. Currently the minimum charge for this is four dollars an hour, plus the cost of any copies made and postage. We cannot estimate the cost of a research project in advance, but we do request that the patron complete a Search and Copying Request form on which he sets the maximum amount he is willing to spend. We also provide a list of people who are willing to do genealogical research in our records and those of state agencies for patrons. In this case, the patron personally contacts the searcher. The Society does not arrange for this service beyond sending out the current list of certified genealogical searchers.

Any of our records that are not restricted by their donors may be copied by the patron, but it is his responsibility to make all necessary provisions for copyright and literary rights restrictions on any and all copies he makes. We will send photocopies of any of our finding aids on request, or if a request by mail for information on a collection of records suggests that this will be useful. Finding aids for our manuscript collections include catalog cards,

entries from our three published guides to the collections, and the descriptive registers and inventories which are prepared in the Records Processing Section for every collection larger than one folder. Published guides to microfilm editions of individual collections may be purchased from the Society at minimal cost.

Genealogists may write the Society, in care of the reference archivist, requesting information from our records, and we will make every effort to come up with the answers, or suggest where or how the answers might be had. The more genealogists can refine and narrow their requests, the better our chances of finding the information they hope we have hidden somewhere. We need to know township names for the census. We need full names, the most complete and accurate identifications the patron is able to provide. And we need understanding when we fail. Records are imperfect things, as are the people who create them -- and service them.

THE MAP COLLECTION

Michael J. Fox

Among the first things one thinks of when considering the relationship of maps to genealogical research are the many county maps and atlases which show land ownership. Plat books and plat maps, as they are commonly called, are useful tools in genealogical research. Unfortunately, they have often overshadowed other cartographic records which can be equally helpful in resolving more than one sticky genealogical problem. This essay will suggest some of those types of maps and the uses to which they can be put in genealogical research. But, having begun by mentioning plat books and plat maps, let us return to these useful friends of the genealogist.

The first county land ownership maps in the United States appeared as plat maps, large single-sheet maps covering an entire county, often meant to be hung on the wall. While the first plat map appeared in 1808, it was not until the decade of the 1850's that such maps caught on. These large cadastral maps were often highly ornamented and gaudily hand-colored, as decorative as they were informative. Hanging on the parlor wall, they were the nineteenth-century equivalent of the art books that decorate coffee tables today. In addition to showing the names of land owners, roads, prominent buildings, and individual residences, the borders often were filled with vignettes of public or wealthy personages, public buildings, town plats, and city business directories.

In 1864, the first plat book appeared. In this format, a series of smaller land-ownership maps were bound together in a multi-paged atlas which was easier to produce and to use. The plat book quickly replaced the single-sheet plat map as the most popular vehicle for depicting land ownership, township by township, within each county.

Both county plat books and plat maps were sold by traveling salesmen who first toured the county taking subscriptions and gathering information for the plat book or plat map to be published. Endorsement by the local newspaper and county officials was sought as a means of encouraging sales. (It is, therefore, more than coincidental that portraits of county officials were often prominently displayed in the front pages of plat books.) Land ownership was verified from records in the county courthouse and plotted on maps drawn from existing sources, though sometimes augmented by rough field inspection. Once sufficient subscriptions were raised, the volume was published, usually in regional centers such as Minneapolis, Chicago, or Rockford, Illinois. Some, however, were more local affairs, plain and sometimes crudely hand-lettered.

As a few big firms came to dominate the market, turning out one county plat book after another, the maps took on a particular and predictable format. Many of the features of the plat map were incorporated. Of course, the central element was the land ownership maps, usually one township to a page, showing land owners' names and property lines. These are useful for genealogists searching for the location of an ancestral farm. City plats continued to be included as well. The big change involved two features which came into their own with plat books. The first was the encyclopedia article. Many plat books became miniature histories, with statistical information and biographical sketches as well as maps of other states and foreign countries. More interesting were the patrons' directories, the portraits and sketches, which were designed to increase the publisher's

profit. Publishers augmented their income by including views of homes, farms, and businesses. Material prosperity was a source of great pride for the farmer, the householder, or the businessman--and a form of advertising for the latter as well. For a fee of thirty-five to sixty dollars, a substantial sum in the nineteenth century, you could have a drawing of your home, farm or business included in the plat book. In the later years of the nineteenth century, photographs replaced the woodcuts or lithographed sketches. The artist, of course, flattered his subscriber to make more subscription sales. Consequently, the scenes in these plat books are idealized: the houses and yards are neat, the fences are all straight, and everywhere there is prosperity and activity. Farmyards are full of animals; horses are high stepping. It is a fortunate genealogist indeed who has been able to find a family home or farm depicted in one of these plat books.

Plat books continue to be published today. In the Midwest, two firms in Rockford, Illinois--the Rockford Map Publishing Company and Duerst Studios--and the Midland Atlas Company of Midland, South Dakota, are particularly prominent. Their plat books are professionally published for use by real estate companies, title companies, and insurance agents and continue to be useful, of course, for genealogists. Though they certainly lack the beauty of their nineteenth-century predecessors, contemporary plat books display the same information. What they lack in graphic design, they make up for in regularity. Whereas nineteenth-century plat books were published at widely varying intervals, companies like Rockford Map Publishing issue a plat book for each county every two to three years.

Genealogists may often find older plat books in their nearby public library or historical society's local history collection. Regional history centers, state libraries, and state historical societies often have cartographic collections whose holdings can be

borrowed on interlibrary loan or reproduced for a reasonable fee. The Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress has extensive holdings in this area. The availability of plat books has been greatly enhanced by the reproduction of many older works in recent years in both printed and microform editions.

Unfortunately, there is no single definitive bibliography of plat books. It is necessary to search a number of sources to determine what was published (remembering the irregular nature of early plat book publishing) and where they might be available. The Catalog of Printed Maps which will be produced in 1980 by the Midwest Map Cataloging Project will include all pre-1900 plat maps and plat books for twelve midwestern states: Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. The Dictionary Catalog of the Map Division of New York Public Library (Boston, G. K. Hall, 1971) lists holdings in its extensive collections. Plat books in the Library of Congress are listed, along with its other atlases, in the eight-volume List of Geographical Atlases in the Library of Congress (Washington, Library of Congress, 1909-1974). Plat maps at the Library of Congress are more readily accessible in Richard W. Stephenson's Land Ownership Maps (Washington, Library of Congress, 1967) which includes a fascinating history of this cartographic form. Bibliographies on the state level include J. W. Sames' Index of Kentucky and Virginia Maps, 1562 to 1900 (Frankfort, Kentucky Historical Society, 1976) or Michael Fox's Maps and Atlases showing Land Ownership in Wisconsin (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1978).

To understand the use of plat books and land transfer records, all of which are important sources of information for genealogists, it is necessary to back up a step, to go back to the original land surveys of Wisconsin. Originally, all of North America, including Wisconsin, belonged to the Native Americans. Then, through one means or another,

Europeans and later Americans obtained title to the land. At first this land was all held by the federal government as part of the Northwest Territory, and finally as the State of Wisconsin. But before the federal government could sell the land to the settlers who were moving in, it had to be surveyed. It was necessary to know what was being sold and to establish boundaries. From 1832 to 1865, General Land Office crews surveyed the state, dividing it into a grid of 1,554 townships. These survey townships, each six miles square and consisting of thirty-six sections one mile square, became the basic unit of our land system. Each township was subdivided into four quarter sections of 160 acres. These were further divided into quarter-quarter sections of forty acres, a frequent unit of farm size and the origin of the popular term, "the forty."

Each survey township is numbered in a grid system, based on its relationship to two lines. In Wisconsin, all townships are described as a certain number of towns north of the base line, the Wisconsin-Illinois border, and east or west of an imaginary north-south line, the Fourth Principal Meridian. For example, the capital of Wisconsin lies in Town 7 North, Range 9 East. This grid system has had a profound impact on the appearance of our landscape, affecting the shape and patterns of farms, roads and urban development.

In many parts of Wisconsin, survey townships correspond to civil townships, which are units of government. Hence, the Town of Berry in Dane County, a local government, is identical to Town 8 North, Range 7 East. But in some parts of the state, especially in the north, civil townships are portions or multiples of congressional townships.

These surveys and the maps prepared from them may not seem particularly germane to most genealogists. But they are important for three reasons. The first we have already seen. The survey grid and its numbering system is the basis for the legal description of

most land outside incorporated areas through most of the country west of the Ohio River. They give us an idea of how the landscape looked when the first settlers came, showing Indian trails and camps, vegetation, and pre-survey settlement. These maps were probably the first thing that many settlers saw of Wisconsin. When people came to the local sales office of the General Land Office in Milwaukee, Mineral Point, Muscoda or elsewhere, frequently they had not already seen the land. Settlers made their purchase and it was recorded in the local office sales books of the General Land Office. This agency of the Department of the Interior was charged with both the surveying and selling of federal properties. The records, located in the State Historical Society's Archives Division (Series 1673), are arranged by legal description, not by names. They show the portion of a section, the section number, the town and the range (this is why it is important to know town and range numbers), the number of acres, price per acre, the amount paid, the name of the purchaser, and the date of the sale. If the purchaser kept the land, and settled it, a patent was issued and sometimes, but not always, the patenting information also was entered; that is, the name, the date, and the volume number of the patent.

Closely related to the county plat books and plat maps is a series of state atlases that were published in Wisconsin in 1876, 1878, and 1881. These state atlases contain much the same sort of information as the county plat books. They are similarly encyclopedic in nature, containing world maps, maps of other states, histories (both of the state and counties), and biographical sketches. But, most important, they include a series of county maps, which are helpful to genealogists. On the maps are shown post offices, many of which no longer exist as settlements.

They show schools, possibly the rural one-room school mentioned in a family diary for which the genealogist is looking. They include churches;

churches frequently have cemeteries. (Rural churches and rural cemeteries fall into decay and disappear and are often very difficult for the geanealogist to find.) These atlases are one of the best sources of contemporary information about such locations. They also show road systems. Many genealogical questions have to do with how the people got to where they settled--what kind of road system existed, where did they come from, did they come from overland from Milwaukee?

Research in urban areas presents a different set of problems for the genealogist, and different maps exist to solve them. Simple city maps showing street names and ward boundaries are a good place to begin. Over time, street names change. A comparison of contemporary and older maps will often reveal a hard-to-find street location. City ward boundaries change over the years as well. Such changes are often frequent and dramatic during periods of rapid city growth. As the basic unit of city government, the ward is the organizing unit for many governmental records such as early census data. Again, older city maps can often identify the ward in which an area was located at a particular time.

City plat maps are of use for the genealogist, too. Unfortunately for the researcher, and unlike their country cousins, such maps seldom show the names of land owners. City land ownership is too complicated and changing to make the depiction of such information commercially profitable. City plat maps are originally created when a landowner subdivides, or plats, property into smaller parcels for resale as city lots. Typically, a very carefully drawn map--called a plat or cadastre--which documents this subdividing must be filed with appropriate authorities. In Wisconsin, this includes the county register of deeds office. Such maps show government survey monuments as well as blocks and lots, their dimensions and numbers, streets, and existing buildings and watercourses.

Plats are the bridges which span the gap between street addresses and legal descriptions of city property. Home owners will recall that, while they may describe their property as 327 Elm Street, its legal description most likely is something like "lot 12, block 7, Sunnyside Addition." Genealogists searching tax rolls or mortgage and deed records, which are arranged by legal descriptions and not by street numbers or owner's names, will be frustrated in their searches without plat maps. Plats are the key which will translate Grandfather's street address into a legal description of his property. Once this is accomplished, various land records can be searched easily. Conversely, with the help of a plat, the information on an old family deed can be turned into a street address to find an ancestral home.

The original copies of city plats are on file, of course, with the appropriate county office, and usually they can be viewed there. In some cities, copies of the official plats have been commercially reprinted in volumes for use by city zoning and planning agencies, tax assessors, and police and fire departments. Commercial map firms are often hired to prepare new tax maps, based on a comparison of aerial photography and older plats, which show lot or tax parcel numbers. Copies of such maps may be available locally in the city hall or public library. Finally, city plat maps are available to the genealogist in a simple but adequate form in numerous city atlases or in the city map section of earlier county plat books of the nineteenth century, as well as in current plat books for Dane, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Walworth and Waukesha counties.

Bird's-eye views or aerial panoramas provide additional information about cities. Published in much the same way as the county plat books, these maps were promoted by traveling salesmen who would take subscriptions, seek the endorsement of the local newspaper and city officials, and hire an artist to sketch the city view by walking up and down the

streets. About 200 bird's-eye views for Wisconsin cities, spanning the period from 1867 to the end of the First World War, were published. The SHSW has copies of virtually all of these. Most are listed in Elizabeth Maule's Bird's Eye Views of Wisconsin Communities (Madison, SHSW, 1977). Buildings were drawn with great care and are generally faithful (if stylized) representations of the way the homes looked. After all, the artist was dependent upon subscription sales to make his living, and if he didn't draw your house right, you weren't likely to buy a copy of his bird's-eye view. They are a useful tool for the genealogist or the local historian who wishes to recreate the appearance of a structure, particularly one which no longer exists.

Another source of information about urban buildings is our collection of the Sanborn fire-insurance maps, published between 1889 and the 1960's. These are large-scale maps showing chiefly commercial and industrial areas in the early days. Further into the twentieth century, they also cover residential districts. The maps are color-coded to show types of construction: yellow buildings are frame, pink are brick, and blue are stone or masonry. They also show the proximity of fire-fighting equipment, the type of heating, the location of windows. For commercial and industrial establishments, they show if there is a night watchman; and for earlier years, they also show if electricity is included.

Of special significance to the genealogist is the inclusion of house numbers, a feature which appears on few maps today and almost no earlier ones. Since street numbering patterns, like street names, have often changed, the Sanborn fire-insurance maps are a useful way of corroborating the exact location of 312 Elm Street in 1895.

The locations of over 25,000 Sanborn insurance maps and atlases in institutions in the U. S. and Canada are listed in The Western Association of Map Libraries' Union List of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

(Santa Cruz, Calif.: The Association, 1977). Fire-insurance maps similar to those of the Sanborn Map Co. were prepared for many Canadian cities by the Chas. E. Goad Co. of Montreal and its successor, the Underwriters' Survey Bureau. Robert Hayward's Fire Insurance Maps in the National Map Collection (Ottawa: Public Archives of Canada, 1977) lists the Public Archives of Canada's extensive collection of this firm's works. Among the items listed, are the Sanborn maps for 325 Wisconsin cities in the State Historical Society map collection.

Topographical maps have long been considered an important source of information for outdoor recreation: for camping, hunting, canoeing, and backpacking. But they are also a significant aid to the genealogist. The United States Geological Survey began topographical mapping in 1882. The first map of Wisconsin was the Stoughton quadrangle, which appeared in 1889. Others have followed regularly, for new or revised editions are continually being published in this ongoing project. The State Historical Society has a complete collection of all U.S.G.S. topographical maps of Wisconsin. Useful features of topographical maps for genealogists include the depiction of rural church and cemetery locations. They are also an important source for identifying local, rural place names, both geographical and cultural. Useful, too, is their inclusion of the federal land survey grid system which we considered earlier. It is often difficult to relate older maps to contemporary ones due to cultural impact on the landscape, the building of new roads, damming of rivers, and the growth of cities. By including the town, range and section numbers of the federal survey grid, topographical maps provide a convenient point when reading older maps, especially plat books.

Ancillary to maps and of equal importance to genealogists are the many gazetteers and place-name reference works now available. They can solve many puzzles, serving as the link between documents and

maps.

Researchers too often spend hours carefully poring over maps of the United States or foreign countries in search of the name of a village or town which may long since have disappeared or been changed beyond recognition. This is wasted effort. The exact location of most places can be more quickly plotted by consulting a gazetteer before turning to a map. Larger cities worldwide can be found in several general works: the Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World (New York, Columbia University Press, 1952), in The Times Index-Gazetteer of the World (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1967), or the Webster's New Geographical Dictionary (Springfield, Mass.:C. & G. Merriam Co., 1964). At least one of these should be available in any library.

For current U. S. names, the best general source is the gazetteer sections of the Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide (Chicago: Rand McNally, 1978). Named townships can be identified in the Township Atlas of the United States (McLean, Va.: Andriot Associates, 1977). For local place-names and for smaller communities, one can turn to numerous detailed state and regional works. Official state atlases often include comprehensive indexes to local place names. The recently published Atlas of Wisconsin (Madison:UW Press, 1974), for example, includes a 14,000-entry index based on place names appearing on the U. S. Geological Survey topographical maps. Numerous place name histories and etymologies such as Frederic G. Cassidy's Dane County Place Names (Madison:UW Press, 1968), or more recent works such as Indiana Place Names (Bloomington:Indiana University Press, 1975) or Georgia Place Names (Macon, Ga.: Winship Press, 1975) are also useful. Richard Sealock's definitive, though now dated, Bibliography of Placename Literature: United States and Canada (Chicago:ALA, 1967) lists 3,599 such sources.

Similar works are available for foreign countries as well. The best bibliography of foreign gazetteers

is in the "CL" section of that most popular reference work, Guide to Reference Books (Chicago:ALA), compiled now by Eugene Sheehy. (This work was formerly compiled by C. M. Winchell and is still known and referred to by many librarians as "Winchell.") This list is by no means definitive, however. Sheehy lists for Germany only the standard Meyers Orts-und Verkehrs-Lexicon des Deutschen Reichs (Leipzig:Bibliographisches Inst., 1912-1913), while a search of the campus libraries of the University of Wisconsin uncovered twenty-four gazetteers and place name works covering both present and historic Germany. Researchers should check the subject portions of a library's card catalog under the subjects "Names, Geographical," and under the subdivision "Gazetteers" following the names of countries to insure covering all available titles. Unfortunately, foreign gazetteers are specialized tools and are likely to be found only in the largest public or research libraries. The collections of such institutions are frequently available, however, through the interlibrary loan channels of your nearest public library.

To a greater degree than might be supposed, then, cartographic records in abundance can be of aid to the genealogist. Rural and urban plat maps and plat books, state atlases, city street maps, bird's eye views, fire-insurance maps, gazetteers, and government documents relating to land transactions--each performs a particular function in research, and collectively they can make the construction of a genealogy both easier and more interesting.

GENEALOGY IN WISCONSIN HISTORY:

An 1855 Kidnapping Solved and a Rare Photograph Found

John O. Holzhueter

Back in 1855, the U. S. government hired the famous Pinkerton Detective Agency to find a kidnapped Menominee Indian boy from Wisconsin. The Pinkertons failed, however, and the boy remained lost. The mystery lived on--far longer than any of the principal figures in the drama could have lived themselves. Generations of Wisconsinites were brought up on the story of the lost child: Was little Caspar Partridge lost forever in the woods, or was he stolen by the Indians? Was it really Caspar who was found among the Menominee and who was restored to his parents? Or did the Partridges claim a half-breed boy as their own, kidnap him, and vanish?

In the fall of 1974, by using the tools every genealogist employs and by taking advantage of a modern telephone system, I succeeded where the Pinkertons had failed. Without setting foot outside the Historical Society Library and my office in Madison, I solved the riddle of Caspar Partridge.

It was not the first time I traced someone in the cause of history, nor was it the last. Just recently I located the descendants of a black Milwaukeean--the state's first Negro civil rights figure--and I was rewarded by finding the earliest photograph the Historical Society now has of a black Wisconsinite. In both cases the sources were the same: personal contacts, library collections, and courthouse records.

The methods were genealogical, but the goals were not: a genealogist starts with a living person and traces his ancestors; I started with a historic figure and traced his descendants.

Detective work on the Partridge case began with William C. Haygood, editor of the Wisconsin Magazine of History, who wanted to take a fresh look at the story and its mountain of related documents, especially some newly released federal records. He thought they might give some answers, but they did not. Nor did public appeals for information. The Partridges left Wisconsin without a trace. Haygood's conclusions were the same as those reached by other scholars: Caspar had died in the woods; the Partridges found an Indian boy who resembled him, kidnapped the Indian boy, and fled. But why? Where did they go? What became of the boy?

That is where I came in. I suggested that descendants of the Partridges might know the answers. Bill was able to tell me that the family had been reported in Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and Nebraska. A published genealogy led to Warren, Ohio, but the Partridges there knew nothing about Caspar or his parents. I worked westward. I checked through the Historical Society's large collection of county histories, and when I hit Steuben County, Indiana, I hit home. (If this plan had not worked, I would have checked the Soundex for the 1880 federal census.) At about the same time, Malcolm Rosholt, a Wisconsin author, published a novel about the Partridge case. He, too, had traced the family to Steuben County, but he had not been able to locate descendants.

Bill and I immediately examined the federal census records for 1860, 1870, and 1880, plus all the materials we could readily find about Steuben County. And we got in touch by phone and letter with many people: the compiler of the county's cemetery records; local newspaper reporters; local historians; and county officials for probate and death records. We learned through the census that Caspar had been

renamed Joseph, and a county history disclosed that he was a Civil War veteran. We acquired a copy of his service and pension records from the National Archives, and it proved to be a bonanza. Joseph's pension file detailed a remarkable story of bigamy and a quandary about the legal recipient of his pension, and it gave the name and some addresses of numerous relatives and friends who had been interviewed by the investigator on the case. I tried by telephone to find them or their descendants in the communities in which they had lived in 1918, and after two or three days and perhaps ten calls I managed to find a nephew of the widow who ultimately won the pension.

Without mentioning the kidnapping or the Indian question, I asked him to describe Joe Partridge. "Well," he said without hesitation, "he was an Indian." Without trying to sound excited, I asked how he knew. "He told me so," the nephew said, "and so did his sons."

I was in such high glee that I forgot to ask some questions which I should have asked, and I had to call back. But the nephew readily provided the names of other persons, and I soon learned that in 1974 Joseph Partridge, who had been born in the 1840's, still had a sister-in-law living in Florida. She was ninety, had a date to go square dancing the day I spoke to her, and had known Joe very well. He had died during a visit to her home at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, in 1916, and he was "part Indian." Her story was confirmed by descendants and heirs of his children and by their cousins on their mother's side of the family.

A picture of a complex man began to emerge: Joseph Partridge drank too much, he loved children, he was a womanizer, he excelled in whittling and woodcraft, he was kind, he was perpetually unemployed, he was a scrapper when provoked or drunk, and he knew he was an Indian.

That is how he was remembered by his wife's family and his immediate descendants. But what about his own nieces and nephews in the Partridge line?

What did they know about Joe? The pension record helped locate one sister's family in Colorado, but its members barely knew his name. Through a series of misfortunes and circumstances, nearly all the living descendants in that branch of the family were sightless, and they had disposed of the family photograph albums.

The trail of the second sister seemed to stop in Nebraska, where she had been living with her family in 1880. But then the obituary of the senior Mrs. Partridge arrived from Steuben County, supplied by an overworked newspaper employee. It disclosed that the "lost" daughter had lived for years in Tacoma, Washington. A search of city directories and a telephone call to the probate office for Tacoma provided the name of a great-niece who operated the family's flower business. She graciously gave me the name of Joseph Partridge's last surviving Partridge nephew--an El Paso, Texas, octogenarian.

My conversation with him was a long one--and very loud. The old gentleman was quite deaf, and my bellowing disturbed colleagues who work two corridors from my office. But the effort was worth it. He had all the answers, since he had made the case a personal project for many years. When he was a small boy, he had lived for a year or so with Mrs. Partridge, and later he pieced together his uncle's story, using his own recollections, records, and interviews. His grandmother, he had come to believe, refused to accept the idea that her son had died in the woods. She desperately wanted him to be alive, and she seized Joe as her own. Her husband, however, was not persuaded, and he and the two girls frequently discussed the matter outside the hearing of Joseph and his mother. They knew the truth, but they could not quite bring themselves to accept it, and so they carried their doubts to their graves.

Joe, however, had no doubts. His own descendants, his surviving sister-in-law, and the various members of her family agreed on one point: Joseph

Partridge was an Indian boy.

Even his final resting place turned out to be shrouded in mystery. Although he had been visiting his sister-in-law at the time of his death, he actually expired at the home of a neighbor in Camp Douglas. But we could find no marker for him in the local cemetery--or so it seemed. For the third time in the case, an aged person supplied the answer. He was the Camp Douglas neighbor, now in his late eighties, and he related that the family had not marked Joe's grave. Years later, persons interested in honoring Civil War veterans approached him and asked him to point out the burial spot, which he did. But he had forgotten Joe's name, and when he was given a list of possibilities, he selected the wrong one. Thus the kidnapped Indian boy, who became Joseph Partridge, lies buried in Camp Douglas as Joseph F. Parker.

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The story of the black civil rights leader Ezekiel Gillespie is less dramatic, and the search for his family was less complex. (At this writing, the story is still incomplete. I do not yet know the names and races of his parents, for example, nor the origins of his two wives.)

Ezekiel Gillespie has come down through the state's history as the man who in 1865 initiated a court suit which won the vote for Wisconsin's blacks. The suit was not his idea; white civil rights leaders deserve credit for that. But Ezekiel Gillespie was a willing instrument for progress, and he devoted himself wholeheartedly to the voting case and other reforms. Unfortunately, no suitable photograph of him was available as a visual symbol of his achievement.

Once again the first clues were supplied by a scholar. In this case it was Frederick I. Olson, a

dean of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the author of a short article about Gillespie. Dean Olson had obtained from cemetery records the name and address of an Atlanta woman who had been responsible for her family's graves. But seventeen years before, he had received no answer to a letter sent there. In late 1976, I made a routine telephone information call which disclosed that someone with the same surname still lived at the same address. I telephoned, and was referred to an officer of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company. She told me that the family had founded the company, and she promised to do what she could about finding a picture of Ezekiel Gillespie. I waited two weeks, heard nothing, and decided on another approach. Since the family had been among the most prominent ones in Atlanta's black community, it was likely that Afro-American scholars could help me. Two or three calls put me in touch with Richard Long of Atlanta University. He told me that the family in question was unusually reticent, but that a close friend and neighbor of the son of the firm's founder probably would help me. The neighbor did. She had known Jessie Gillespie, the daughter of Ezekiel and the second wife of the life insurance executive. And the neighbor gave me the name and address of one of Jessie's great-nieces. A call to the niece produced the name of another, and she in turn provided another.

The last of the three owned the significant picture--a daguerreotype of Ezekiel Gillespie taken in the 1840's. It is a rare picture for several reasons. First, it is early; daguerreotypes were not taken in the United States until 1839. Second, it is of a black person; not many daguerreotypes of blacks have survived, and very few of those are of identifiable blacks. Third, it is significant symbolically in Wisconsin's black history, for Gillespie's name has come to be associated with civil rights achievement in the nineteenth century. The great-granddaughter lent the Society the daguerrreotype for copying. The two other descendants also permitted us to copy pictures

of various family members, including Ezekiel Gillespie.

The family, however, was a complex one. Gillespie had been married twice, the second time to a widow with two daughters, and he had had children by both wives. While descendants of his stepchildren and children by his second wife had remained in touch, they had not maintained ties with the descendants of the five children of the first marriage. And I wanted to locate all of them in order to complete my search and make sure that I had found all the Gillespie material.

Again, a probate record proved invaluable. The Atlanta daughter was childless and had died without a will, so her administrators had to search out the names and addresses of all her nieces and nephews. They developed an extensive list, and from the names on it I easily found a Gillespie great-grandson who lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. He gave me the name and address of a cousin in Los Angeles, and she was able to provide more pictures, some useful biographical detail, and the name of Emma Gillespie, a Los Angeles granddaughter of Ezekiel. She, in turn, has put me in touch with a great-granddaughter in Vermont who owns some family scrapbooks, letters, and diaries. But these three women had lost track of other cousins in Chicago and Detroit. I had one clue to them: a female cousin was known to have worked for a black-owned sausage factory in Chicago, but the Los Angeles and St. Paul cousins could not recall her married name or the name of the firm. A black acquaintance told me the name of the company (Parker House Sausage), and a phone call and a follow-up letter to its financial officer elicited the proper name and address.

The Chicago woman, a former entertainer, has put me in touch with numerous cousins, has provided a small collection of letters from the 1870's, and has donated some additional pictures.

Only one of Ezekiel's ten children or step-children has remained elusive. He is Charles, who

passed for many years into the white world and who returned to his family before his death. His sons, however, could not be traced when their Atlanta aunt's estate was distributed.

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These two research excursions suggest several bits of advice. First, the memories of old people go back nearly a century, and they may remember conversations about events that occurred long before they were born. Historians and genealogists alike should talk to informants and not rely wholly upon the written or published record.

Second, locate all descendants or relatives in all lines.

Third, the bits and pieces of a genealogical or historical puzzle do not fall into place neatly, in the right order. They are learned randomly, and one leads to another in no particularly graceful way.

Fourth, do not be timid about repeating visits or questions. Wait a decent interval if a letter goes unanswered, then try again. New bits of information may mean that another interview is needed, but as new questions occur, be sure to ask them good-naturedly and without embarrassment.

Fifth, use public records. Everyone leaves a trail of them as he proceeds through life, and they are deposited in the logical government offices. Military, probate, birth, marriage, pension, and death records are particularly useful.

Sixth, use library resources imaginatively and to their utmost.

Seventh, telephone conversations often are more fruitful than letters, which many people find difficult to write. Calls are less costly than travel, and they take far less time. Make sure to take notes during the conversation, then amplify them immediately afterwards.

Finally, keep a sense of humor, do not expect to solve a research problem quickly, be persistent, and maintain the attitude that an answer is just around the corner. There is an adage among historians that you can learn something about anything if you only look hard enough.

You can even solve kidnappings.

INDEX

Area Research Centers
25
Atlases
37
Bird's-eye views
39-40
Census records
12-14, 21-23
Civil War
23-24
Draper Collection
28-29
Family histories
9-10
Gazetteers
41-43
Gillespie, Ezekiel
48-51
Land records
35-37
Local histories
10-11
Military records
23-25
Naturalization records
26
Newspapers
14-19
Partridge, Caspar
44-48
Place names
41-43
Plat books, plat maps
32-35, 38-39
Fire insurance maps
40-41
Topographical maps
41
Vital records
11-12, 26
Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
12, 27

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

James P. Danky is Newspapers and Periodicals Librarian at the State Historical Society, and Project Director of the 1905 Wisconsin State Census Indexing Project. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Ripon College and a Master of Arts (Library Science) from the University of Wisconsin.

Michael J. Fox is Map Curator of the State Historical Society. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts (Library Science) degree from the University of Wisconsin. The history of bird's-eye view map publishing is an area of particular personal interest.

James L. Hansen, the Reader Services Librarian at the State Historical Society, is a native of Turtle Lake, Wisconsin, and a graduate of Marquette University (B.A.) and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (M.A.). Since his arrival in November, 1974, he has been the Society's resident genealogical expert. Jim is married and has two sons. His hobbies include reading, crossword puzzles, medieval genealogy, and newspaper bibliography. He is the compiler of Wisconsin Newspapers, 1833-1850; an Analytical Bibliography, published by the Society in 1979.

Joanne Hohler is an Archivist in the Manuscripts Section of the Society's Archives Division, where she is responsible for the training of interns and acts as the agency's resource person for preservation. She holds a Master's Degree from the University of Wisconsin.

John O. Holzhueter, an associate editor of the Wisconsin Magazine of History, contributes a weekly discussion about Wisconsin's past to morning audiences of the state radio network. His remarks in this publication resulted from his informal status as the Historical Society's reference aide of last resort. In addition, Mr. Holzhueter checks and corrects for historical accuracy many of the Society's publications.

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